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bellowings were occasionally heard from the bowels of the earth, and earth quakes were frequent. After remaining here about ten minutes, we returned to town. The inhabitants had mostly quitted their houses, and remained in the open air, or under tents. We passed the night at Vellas, and the next morning went by water to Ursulina, a small sea-port town, two leagues south of Vellas, and viewed that part of the country covered with the cinders before-mentioned, and which has turned the most valuable vineyards in the island into a frightful desert. On the same day (the fourth of May) we returned to Fayal, and on the fifth and succeeding days, from twelve to fifteen small volcanoes broke out in the fields we had traversed on the third, from the chasms before described, and threw out a quantity of lava, which travelled on slowly towards Vellas. The fire of those small craters subsided, and the lava ceased running about the eleventh of May, on which day the large volcano that had lain dormant for nine days, burst forth again like a roaring lion, with horrid belchings, distinctly heard at twelve leagues distant, throwing up prodigious large stones, and an immense quantity of lava, illuminating at night, the whole island.

This continued with tremendous force until the fifth of June, exhibiting the awful, yet magnificent spectacle of a perfect river of fire (distinctly seen from Fayal) running into the sea. On that day (the fifth) we experienced that its force began to fail, and in a few days after, it ceased entirely. The distance of the crater from the sea is about four miles, and its elevation about three thousand five hundred feet. The lava inundated and swept away the town of Ursulina, and country houses, and cottages adjacent, as well as the farm-houses throughout its course. It as usual, gave timely notice of its approach, and most of the inhabitants fled; some few, however, remained in the vicinity of it too long, endeavouring to save their furniture and effects, and were scalded by flashes of steam, which, without injuring their clothes, took off not only their skin, but their flesh. About sixty persons were thus misera-

bly scalded, some of whom died on the spot, or in a few days after. Numbers of cattle shared the same fate.

The judge and principal inhabitants left the island very early. The consternation and anxiety were for some days so great among the people, that even their domestic concerns were abandoned, and, amidst plenty they were in danger of starving. Supplies of ready baked bread were sent from hence to their relief, and large boats were sent to bring away the inhabitants, who had lost their dwellings. In short, the island, heretofore rich in cattle, corn, and wine, is nearly ruined, and a scene of greater desolation and distress has seldom been witnessed in any country."

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

AS it is high time for those who keep bees, to secure their hives against the severity of the winter, permit me to suggest a few hints on the subject.

Some persons with a view of protecting their hives from the wet and cold, as well as from the attacks of vermin, cover them with a coat of lime or mortar. By this practice they may gain their object; but they certainly lose in another point of view. To a person who has a considerable number of bees, it is undoubtedly an object to have his straw hives preserved in the best manner possible, so that they may be useful in a subsequent year. Now this, I should imagine, is very imperfectly effected by the mode above-mentioned. The lime tends to injure the texture of the hive, and of course to render it sooner unfit for use: and the application of this or any other substance of a similar nature, is unfavourable to that perfect cleanliness, which is most agreeable to a swarm. A hive, therefore, seems to be best preserved, by being kept perfectly clean and dry. For this purpose, hoods of straw are to be preferred to every other covering. The hood should consist of as much clean straw as will effectually cover the hive on all sides. It should be tied at top, so as to prevent the rain from penetrating; and should extend on all

sides, except for a small space in front, lower than the board on which the hive is placed, so as to carry the water to the ground. It should be fastened by a small rope or cord, binding it closely to the hive a little below the center. As hoods of straw put on, in the early part of the season, may by this time have become insufficient to protect the hives from rain and snow, it may be proper to renew them, and to use more straw for this purpose, than what was employed in summer. If the mouth of the hive has been considerably large, as it should be during the working season, it should now be diminished to a very small aperture. This will both prevent the entrance of vermin, and preserve the bees from excessive cold.

By these precautions, hives may be abundantly protected from the injuries of the weather. To such as may think that this is not enough to keep the bees sufficiently warm, I would remark, that it is not necessary they should be kept very close and warm. The bee, during the winter months, is naturally torpid, and if kept from wet and the action of the external air, is not injured by cold. Heat, on the contrary, is not proper for them for six months in the year. After the working season is past, the bees so long as they continue active, are daily diminishing the store which they have provided: and if by the warmth of the latter part of the season, or other means, they be not seized with torpor till about the beginning of November, they will have considerably encroached on that stock which should support them in spring, before they can collect honey in the fields. On this account, I should imagine, that it is improper to put hives during winter, into warm situations, as into houses, especially near where fires are kept; and that immediately after the bees have ceased working, the front of the hive should be turned toward the north, or at least screened from the sun. The sun sometimes breaks out very hot during fine weather in winter, or early in spring. This incites the bees to come forth, and perhaps fly abroad, in consequence of which many of them perish. For

six months, therefore, the hive should be kept in a moderately cold situation, sheltered from the wind and sun; and should not be exposed to the beams of the sun at noon, till the weather has become mild, and some flowers have opened in the gardens or fields.

The better to protect the hive from storms, it should be fastened with cord to the board on which it is placed, so that it may not be in any danger of being overturned by the wind. Every thing should be removed from about the pedestal that might encourage the entrance of mice or other vermin, which might do injury to the hive. A. Z.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

TABLE-TALK.....PROLEGOMENA.

WHEN a writer outrages nature in describing things which have no existence, he must necessarily expect to be neglected. Superior talent may bear him up for a while; he may, for a short time attract the attention of that numerous class of mankind, for whom the floating of a feather in the air has attractions as powerful as the crush of nations: but this charm will cease with the novelty of his production, and his talent will seem to serve only as an additional weight to accelerate his descent. In the most favourable case oblivion is his fate, and his only consolation then will be, that he has endeavoured to be of service in his day. This is likely to be my consolation, engaged as I am, in this hopeless task of describing non-entities. The full difficulty of my undertaking is present to me: for I am aware, that as with poets the "*Quidlibet audendi potestas*" is much limited, so in a much narrower space are prose writers circumscribed.

Why then, may it be asked, is such an undertaking volunteered in? why attempt to describe man, as he is *not*? to write what cannot please the present age, and what, from this very circumstance, must have a slender chance of reaching that posterity, which seems so much to interest you?

These are feasible objections; yet I feel encouraged by hopes which others might think slender, though to me they present inducement sufficient to move me to the trial.